

St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church

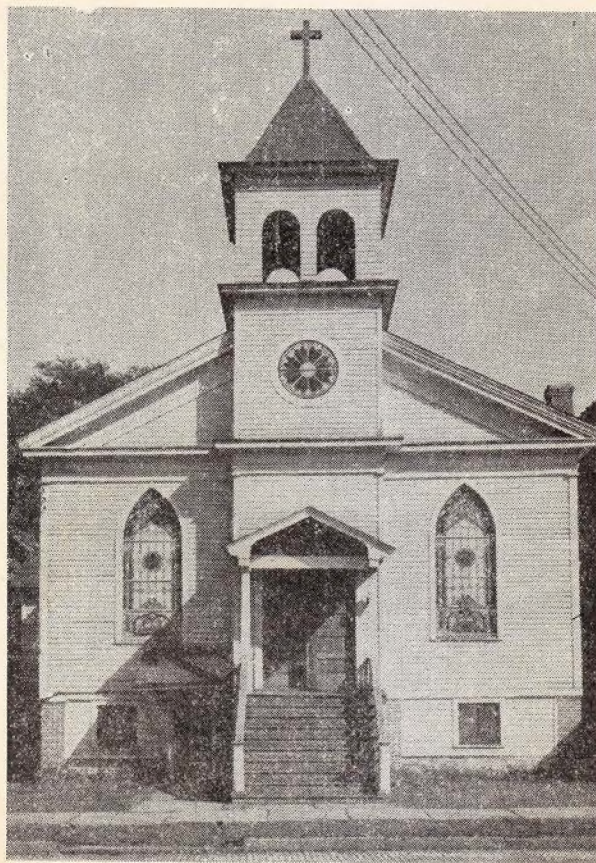
OF

Carbondale, Penna.



1896 - 1946

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With Deep Appreciation

AND

Humble Gratitude

The Congregation of St. Paul's Ev. Lutheran Church
Dedicates This Booklet

to the Memory of
The Rev. F. Ehinger

and the eight Lutherans, (Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brunner,
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. August
Gerhardt, Mrs. C. Schadel, and Mr. Albin Engel) who
worked so faithfully to establish in Carbondale a
church of their faith.



REV. F. EHINGER



REVEREND EUGENE O. STEIGERWALT

Preface

THE planting and development of the Church is the most important work that can engage anyone. This is OUR FATHER'S business. The Church at large cannot be planted nor developed except by planting and developing a congregation. This makes necessary a beginning.

In observing our Golden Anniversary we ought to pause to pay tribute to the faith and love of our charter members. They made the beginning because of their vision and sense of obligation to the future. They believed that the Church must march with civilization until the end of time. They were determined to transmit the faith of their fathers to their descendants as their most treasured heritage. They made practical provision for the realization of their ideals for their kindred, city, and nation. It is the beginning which they made that made possible the Church of today. We accept with gratitude their contributions to the life and history of St. Paul's.

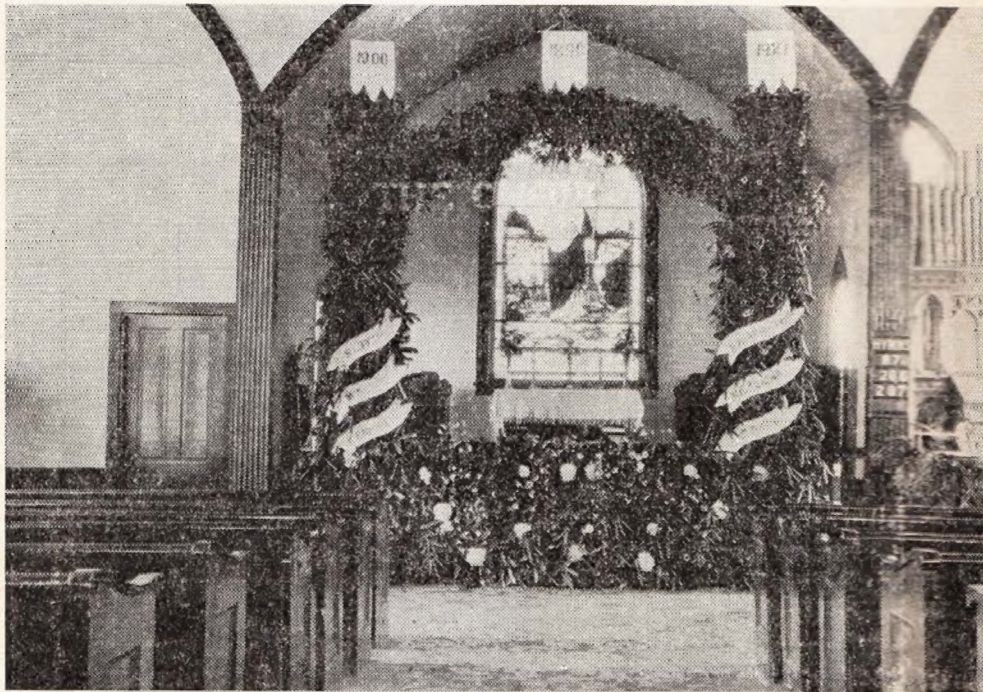
In every congregation a period of growth and development follows the beginning. Since we with the apostles must wrestle against "principalities and powers" our growth is not normal, but is accomplished through adversity and disappointment, through toil and sacrifice, through prayer and anguish of spirit. Many of those living today have shared in this growth without considering the cost too high. Others, now of the Church Triumphant, too have labored through the burden and heat of their life's day. We are not unmindful of them nor of their works, for their works bring to vivid remembrance the faces no longer visible. These too we would commend for their "work of faith and labour of love."

The future is always one of great possibilities, though unknowable. Blessed is he who is still per-

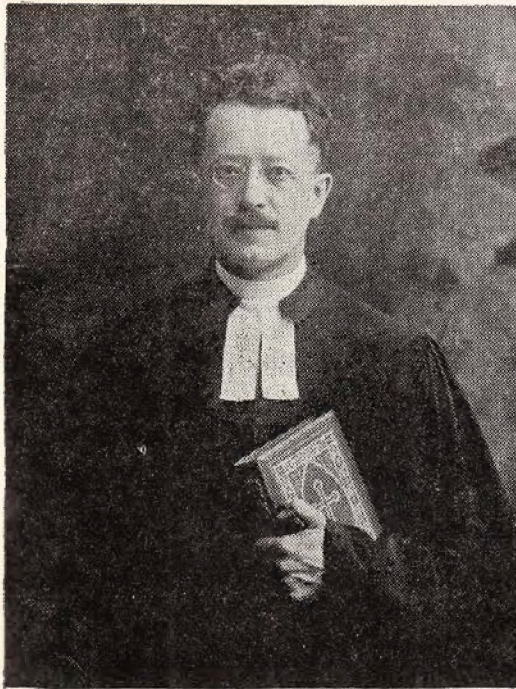
mitted to invest his time and life in the Church that is yet to be! Those of mature years have already found their "pearl of great price." We would exhort them to continue in the faith and in the things they have learned. To untried youth we entrust great responsibilities for keeping, improving and enlarging the faith and work of our congregation. May they ever look to God for wisdom and counsel in their undertakings so that they may build with "gold, silver and precious stones" upon the foundation that is laid.

Blessed be God the Father and Jesus Christ His only-begotten Son, our Saviour, and also the Holy Ghost for every grace and favor shown us during these fifty years.

E. O. Steigerwalt, Pastor.



INTERIOR—25th ANNIVERSARY



Rev. B. Walther Pfeil



Rev. Vernon B. Yeich



** Rev. E. Saul **



** Rev. R. E. Lucas **

PASTOR'S OF ST. PAUL'S

Rev. F. Ehinger	Oct. 1896—Feb. 1903
Rev. Wm. Seibert	Aug. 1903—July 1904
Rev. R. L. Pfeil	Sept. 1904—April 1914
Rev. R. E. Lucas	April 1914—Jan. 1917
Mr. R. Jeurgins	Dec. 11 1917—April 1918
Rev. E. Saul	May 1918—Nov. 1918
Rev. B. Walther Pfeil	Dec. 1918—Nov. 1923
Rev. Vernon B. Yeich	Dec. 1923—Sept. 1937
Rev. E. O. Steigerwalt	Oct. 1937—

Church Council—1946

C. A. Koch, President	Walter Brunner
Herman Brooks, Vice-Pres.	Adam Chrastina
Ernest Brucher, Secretary	Keith Mosher
Carl Brunner, Fin. Secy.	F. G. Koch (deceased)
Leland Brunner, Treasurer	

Sunday School Officers and Teachers

Carl Brunner, Supt.	Martha Marci
Walter Brunner, Treas.	Fred Billings
Majorie Brunner, Pianist	Leland Brunner
Jean Wigfall, Asst. Pianist.	
Mrs. Leland Brunner, Cradle Roll Supt. and Teacher	

The Church Personnel

Rev. E. O. Steigerwalt	Pastor
Mrs. Geo. Miller	Organist
Marjorie Brunner	Asst. Organist
Wilbert Schwarztrauber	Sexton

The Ladies Aid

Mrs. Ida Kagler	President
Mrs. Arthur Ross,	Vice-President
Mrs. Ernest Brucher	Secretary
Mrs. Herman Brooks	Treasurer

The Luther League

Mrs. Clifford Pittaway	President
Mrs. Geo. Yeager	Vice-President
Mrs. Clelland McPherson	Secretary
Carl Brunner	Treasurer

The Brotherhood

Herman Brooks	President
Keith Mosher	Vice-President
Carl Brunner	Secretary-Treasurer

Missionary and Altar Guild Society

Mrs. Leland Brunner	President
Mrs. Clifford Pittaway	Secretary
Mrs. Edward Jacobs	Statistical Secretary
Mrs. Ernest Brucher	Treasurer

History of St. Paul's Lutheran Church

OF CARBONDALE, PENNA.

1896 — 1946

THE history of St. Paul's Lutheran Church contains a story of the difficult, uphill struggle on the part of a few Lutherans whose life and training compelled them to establish a church of the creed of their fathers, not for themselves alone, but that their children might be baptised, reared and confirmed in that faith.

Three unsuccessful attempts were made to establish a Lutheran Church in Carbondale. Pastor Gallenkamp of Honesdale, first tried to bring the Lutherans together. Only three women responded to his call for a meeting. Then Pastor Hunger, who came from Germany, conducted services until the money collected was spent. Next Pastor Rudolph of Archbald, supplied until there was no money left wherewith to pay his expenses. The services, in those early days were held Sunday afternoons in the Presbyterian Church.

It was Pastor Holder of Scranton, who began the movement which resulted in the establishment of a Lutheran Church in this community. He sent Pastor Ehinger to Carbondale. This was in 1896. First results of Pastor Ehinger's presence was in the form of a

printed notice which was distributed throughout the city. The notice read as follows:

THE LUTHERANS OF CARBONDALE

Are herewith heartily invited to a business meeting which shall be held in the

Hall of the Lackawanna House

No. 47 Belmont Street on

Thursday Evening, 8 o'clock

For the Purpose of

- 1. Church Organization**
- 2. Election of a Board of Trustees**
- 3. Acquiring of a Church Site.**

The attendance of all Lutherans of the German and English tongue and whose love for their mother Church is still alive in their hearts, is heartily wished and besides them, all who love and pray for the prosperity of Jerusalem, Ps. 122:6 are also welcome to attend.

F. EHINGER,

Oct. 21, 1896.

Pastor.

That evening St. Paul's Lutheran Church was founded with a membership of eight (8) persons. Those who answered the call were: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schroeder, Mr. and Mrs. August Gerhardt, Mrs. C. Schadel and Mr. Albin Engel. Pastor Ehinger not only succeeded in adopting a constitution but also in electing the trustees. The trustees elected were Wm. Schroeder for 3 years; Louis Brunner 2 years; Albin Engel for 1 year.

Of course, at this time, there was no parsonage. The pastor lived with the members of the congregation, moving from place to place. Besides having no definite home, he had no regular salary. For the months of Sept. and Oct. 1896, the pastor received the total sum of \$10.22. This was the entire amount collected at the services during this period. The arrangements for the first service were made by Albin Engel.

On Nov. 1, 1896, the congregation rented the Congregational Church located at the corner of 8th Ave.

and Church St. In that same month Pastor Ehinger moved to the house at the corner of 9th Ave. and Spring St. This house became the first parsonage of the Church. For three and a half years Church Services and Sunday School were held mornings. All the Services were in German and the same language was taught in the Sunday School.

By the year 1897 other families had joined the congregation. In that same year the Mission Board convinced that this city was a good field for the Church, agreed to contribute \$250 yearly toward the pastor's salary. Even that sum added to the collections left the pastor's salary very small.

On May 1900, the trustees (Louis Brunner, Wm. Schroeder, Adolph Proetzsch, August Gerhardt, Paul Ihlefeldt) bought the Welsh Baptist Church from Gerritt P. Rogers, who had obtained it from the Welsh Baptist Association. That they might have a clear deed to the property, that Association gave them a quitclaim deed. The Welsh Baptist Church Society was the original owner. The Lutheran Church was then incorporated June 27, 1900 and the charter filed August 1, 1900 by Attorney L. Gramer, who performed all this work gratuitously.

The consecration of the newly acquired church property took place Oct. 21, 1900. Members and friends gathered at the temporary place of worship, the Congregational Church, and left there in procession at 2:15 o'clock that afternoon. The Mozart Band playing appropriate music led the procession. With the pastor leading, there followed the officers of the church, and the Sunday School, Germania Singing Society, the Honesdale and Petersburg Choirs, members of the Church and Sunday School and friends.

Rev. Randolph officiated in the Confession of Sins and Absolution and also delivered a sermon in German. Rev. A. L. Ramer preached in English. The Consecration was made by Pastor Ehinger. Dr. H. J. Whalen of the Berean Baptist Church spoke in response to the addresses of thanks extended to the citizens and press of Carbondale for their support in courtesy and contributions. The Honesdale and Petersburg Choirs, and the Germania Singing Society furnished the music for the Service. Services that evening were conducted by Prof. G. F. Spieker, D. D., and Mission Supt. Dr. A. Schaffer, both of Philadelphia. The Scranton and Honesdale Choirs furnished the music.

The Church was too small to hold the attendance

that day. Of the church building, the pastor wrote in his records, "Of the twelve churches I have established, this was the most beautiful." The decorations which won this approbation were made by Mr. Frederick Schadel.

In February of 1903, after almost seven years of faithful service the pastor, the Rev. F. Ehinger, who was now over seventy years of age, resigned. He came to Carbondale at an age when most men think of retiring. Tho he was not a rugged man but he brought the Gospel to the homes of his flock. He strove diligently in his meek and humble way to build up his flock, spiritually, numerically and financially. It was with sad hearts that his parishioners saw him leave to take a well-earned rest in his son's home.

The struggle of this little group of Lutherans to establish a church of their faith attracted the attention of others. The Rev. A. Schaffer, D. D., the Mission Supt., took an intense interest in the little church. He gave money from his personal funds, took notes that he never attempted to collect. He succeeded in persuading the Mission Board to increase its contribution. In Carbondale, Mr. E. E. Hendrick and family gave generously. The first Crucifix on the Altar was a gift to Pastor Ehinger from Father Coffey.

From February until May of 1903 there was no pastor. The congregation was served by pastors from the Conference. Sometimes services had to be held in the afternoon and other times in the evening. The Rev. Wm. Seibert was called. He was installed Aug. 1903, by the Revs. Lindenstruth and Ramer. On July 1, 1904 Pastor Seibert resigned to accept a call from the Lock Haven parish.

Then Rev. R. L. Pfeil was sent by Dr. Rehrig on Aug. 24, 1904 to conduct a service and survey the field. That same day the congregation voted to extend a call to Rev. Pfeil. He was installed September 1, 1904.

Again hopes raised. Again did the path, steep tho it was, lead out of the woods of doubts and fears. The members saw with their new leader, their Church growing stronger and more secure. The Rev. R. L. Pfeil entered the work with his whole heart and soul. There was work to be done and he was willing to do it. He performed well his duties as a pastor and did many things which usually were done by laymen, such

as the repairing of the church building or the organ. He labored diligently to increase the membership.

In Aug. 1906 the Church bought for a parsonage the property at 8 Belmont St. The cost was \$2750. An organ and water-motor was purchased from Zion Lutheran Church of Scranton. On Christmas of 1912 Pastor Pfeil dedicated three windows: the Altar window donated by Mrs. Von Beck and family, and the two west windows donated by Adam Gallinot and Louis Brunner.

In May of 1913 the Church Council voted to remodel the church building according to the plans drawn by the pastor. Buckland was awarded the contract. At this time the tower was constructed, the benches rearranged so that there would be a center aisle. A chancel was built and a furnace and gas lights installed. The lectern, which is still in the chancel, is a product of the carpenter work of Adolph Brunner. On April 1, 1914 Pastor R. L. Pfeil accepted a call to St. Paul's, Scranton. At that time there were twenty-three families on the church roll.

On Easter of that year (1914) a call was extended to and accepted by the Rev. R. E. Lucas of Hawley. He remained with this parish until Jan. 21, 1917 when he resigned to accept a call from the Archbald congregation. On March 25th he preached his farewell sermon. From then to November the church was without a pastor. On December 8th a Mr. R. Jeurgins came and supplied for about six months. In May of 1918 the Mission Board sent Rev. E. Saul to take charge until the end of the World War I. He came from Philadelphia where he had charge of the Seaman's Mission. Because the majority of the seamen he served were German, the Mission was closed for the duration of the war. At the close of the war (Nov. 1918) he was recalled by the Mission Board to assume his former duties.

At the close of 1918 Pastor B. Walther Pfeil of Hawley was invited to Carbondale to discuss the situation. He agreed to serve this parish in addition to his own, which were the congregations of Hawley, Lackawaxen and Greely. As a result of this there were services on alternate Sundays in the morning. Yet the church showed progress.

The building was raised in order that there might be a basement. The congregation wanted a place that could be used for many purposes. This basement could be used for meetings for the Ladies Aid and Luther League when desired. Here the social activities could

be held. This same room was to be used by the Sunday School every Sunday. (The raising of the building started some of the older citizens reminiscing. They remembered the time there had been a basement under the Welsh Church. For some unknown reason, the church was lowered.) The space beneath the church was filled in with dirt. In order to reduce the cost entailed in raising the building, members of St. Paul's did all the excavating. The contract to raise the building was given to Fred Brunner. In 1921 the Church Council decided to cover the side walls of the basement with wainscoting, partition off part of the basement for a kitchen and part for a boiler room. The church went deeper in debt. With no pastor occupying the parsonage, the congregation voted to sell the parsonage and help reduce the church's indebtedness. This decision took place March 15, 1920. At the Council meeting March 21, 1923, the Church council voted to revise the church by-laws in order to conform with those of the United Lutheran Church. Sunday Nov. 11, 1923 Pastor B. Walther Pfeil read his resignation. Pastor Pfeil was leaving Hawley to accept another call. Again St. Paul's was without the services of a pastor.

That same year, on Dec. 2nd Vernon Brooke Yeich a student of theology at Mt. Airy Seminary preached his first sermon here. Until his ordination on June 3, 1924, he came to Carbondale every week-end and supplied the congregation. Preceding his ordination, a call was extended to him by the congregation on Feb. 2, 1924.

Once more the road ahead was clear. The congregation attacked its problems with renewed vigor. The entire interior of the church building was remodeled. A wing was added for a Sacristy. New floors were laid over the old ones by Louis Brunner Sr. and his brother Adolph Brunner. The old splintery pews were replaced by beautiful ones purchased from Delong Furniture Co. It was decided to replace the old church windows which consisted of small colored panes at the top part and white washed panes at the bottom. The new church windows were obtained from R. L. Smith and Sons of Philadelphia. New lights were installed. The fixtures were made by Adolph Brunner according to plans drawn by the pastor. The windows were gifts from Louis Brunner Sr., Chris Highhouse, Wm. Zimmerman, Gus Schroeder, Gus Blankenberg, Ladies Aid, Luther League, Arthur, Leland and Louis Brunner. The rewiring was done entirely by the pastor. An umbrella rack for the church vestibule was made by Louis Brunner.

The church again needed a parsonage. At a special congregational meeting the records show that "A rising vote was taken to empower the Church Council to purchase this property for the sum of \$8,000. The property referred to was located at 30 Maple Ave. April 18 1925 they paid Geo. Hudson \$2000. Mr. Hudson held a mortgage for the balance owed, and was to be paid interest at the rate of 6 per cent.

It was either in 1925 or 1926 that Pastor Yeich started to publish a church bulletin. In 1926 the Council gave Chris Gardner the contract to install an Arcola heating system in the church basement. In order to keep the cost as low as possible, it had been agreed upon that the members of the council should assist. So all the work was done evenings, that men might help with the plumbing work.

In 1927 the Church Council gave Stanley Moran the contract to paint the exterior part of the church. In 1928 a removable platform to be used by the Sunday School in the basement was constructed. In 1929 two bulletin boards were made for the church by Adolph Brunner. That same year the organ that belonged to St. Peters, Scranton was purchased. The Church Council had to agree to dismantle and bring the organ to Carbondale. So one evening in June the councilmen went in F. Schwarztrauber's truck to St. Peter's to dismantle and bring it back. Under the supervision of Mr. F. Stoekle, an organ repair man, the men not only dismantled it but set it up in St. Paul's so that Mr. Stoekle could soon have it in tune for church services. It was about 3 o'clock the following morning when the council completed their part of the job.

When the Church purchased the property at 30 Maple Ave. they had to buy when real-estate in Carbondale was at its high peak in values. This meant a heavy mortgage for the small congregation. In order to reduce the principal Pastor Yeich suggested a plan which the congregation accepted. The pastor proposed that the members loan the church money in multiples of \$25 for a period of one or two years without interest and accept notes for each \$25 loaned. These loans were to be retired not according to the date the money was loaned, but to those first who found they needed their money.

It was in 1929 that Pastor Yeich suggested the church conduct a Mission for a week. A pastor or pastors from other congregations were to have complete charge of the Mission. The first one was conducted by

the Revs. Mattes, Fischer and Bechtold. The first two pastors were from Scranton. Dr. Bechtold was the Executive Secretary of Inner Missions. The Mission was very successful. Each evening service was well attended. These Missions were conducted in 1930, 1931, 1932 and 1933. The services in 1930 were conducted by Rev. Menges, and 1931 by the Rev. Marcell of Philadelphia. The Rev. Bergh of Wilkes-Barre, conducted the Mission in 1932 and in 1933 it was conducted by Rev. Marcell.

In 1930 there was a closet built for robes, altar hangings and shelves for music. Material for a new robe was purchased. In 1931 the parsonage painting contract was given to Glen Wagner. When the church bought the organ from St. Peter's, St. Paul's sold their old organ to the Italian Presbyterian Church. That church wrote in 1932 that because of financial difficulties they could not pay off the \$50 balance. So St. Paul's church council appointed their pastor to write to their minister that St. Paul's had cancelled the debt. A letter of thanks soon followed from the Italian Presbyterian Church. In 1932 a brass rail and curtain similar to that before the choir, was placed before the organist's bench. In 1933 St. Paul's joined the other churches of Carbondale in organizing a committee to administer relief to the needy of the community. This committee functioned until the government took over the task of giving relief. We all well know the hard times the depression years produced in our country. St. Paul's lost many members because they left Carbondale to seek employment elsewhere. The other large loss was through the death of the older members who had striven so hard to establish a church of their faith in this community. Financially St. Paul's could no longer support a full-time pastor. Pastor Yeich resigned Sept., 1937.

With the departure of Pastor Yeich, St. Paul's was again without a pastor. Realizing that the congregation could not support a full-time pastor without the assistance from the Home Mission Board, the council turned to St. Luke's, Archbald and their pastor for assistance. It was agreed that Carbondale become a supply point, served by St. Luke's Pastor Steigerwalt. Oct. 1937 Pastor Steigerwalt commenced to serve the Carbondale congregation.

At the congregational meeting Jan. 28 1938 the Church Council president appointed a committee to revise the church constitution. Since no change could be made until it had been brought up as part of the

official business of three consecutive congregational meetings, the final draft was not adopted until Jan. 15, 1941. The By-Laws were revised at the same time. The committee based their work on the "Model Church Constitution," published by the United Lutheran Church.

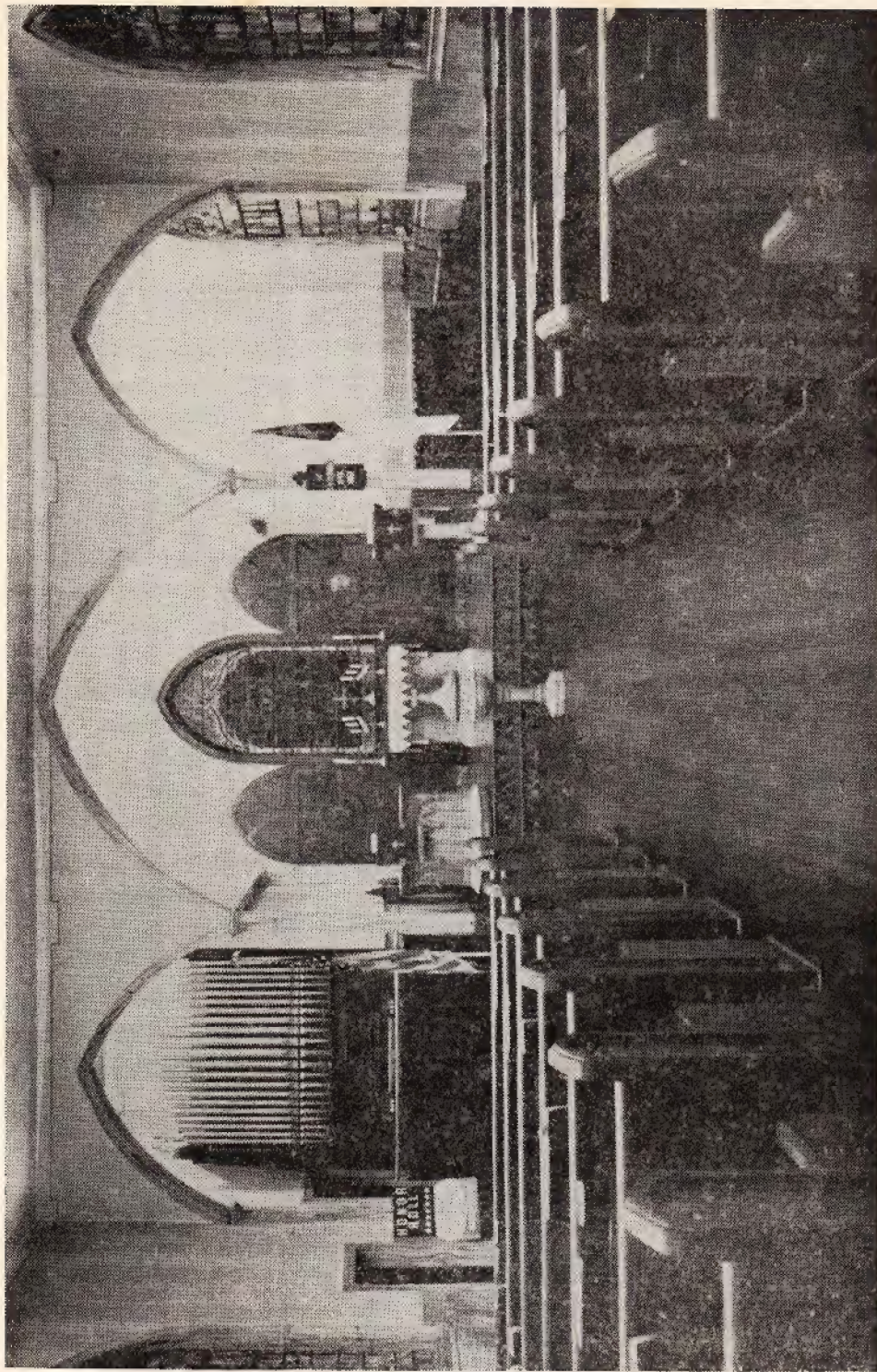
In 1938 a new furnace was installed in the parsonage. The council decided to seek a tenant for the parsonage. The income derived from the rent was to be used in reducing the mortgage on the parsonage. On April 30, 1940, the council voted to have the exterior of the church painted. Before the painting was started it was discovered that the church needed a new roof. After the roof was put on the church, the Brotherhood took over the project of painting the church. That same year John Postlethwaite was given the contract to paint and decorate the interior of the church. The men of the Brotherhood assisted in the interior painting in order to keep the cost as low as possible. Two panels were placed in the Sanctuary. To meet these heavy expenses the organizations of the church put forth extra effort to conduct affairs whereby they might raise money. The lights of the church were entirely out of harmony with the interior decorations. In 1941 through the gifts of Mrs. Highhouse, Mrs. Kagler, Mrs. Lynett, the Marci family and Geo. Schroeder, new light fixtures were obtained.

Upon the recommendation of Pastor Steigerwalt the council ordered 10 copies of "Light For Today." These booklets contain a message for each day. The booklets were to be distributed to the sick, shut-ins, and aged. The pastor has been also instrumental in getting the members interested in their excellent church weekly, "The Lutheran." Upon his advise the council adopted the use of the U. L. C. church bulletin. In 1942 he asked for the privilege to start a week-day religious training school. He conducted this school also in 1943 and 1944. The school ran for 10 weeks each time. The children attended these classes once a week after their regular public school sessions. On his staff to assist him, the pastor had Mrs. Leland Brunner, Carl Brunner and Marjorie Brunner as pianist. Refreshments were first served and grace was taught at that time. In the warm weather cookies and soda were served, and in the cold weather, the children had hot chocolate and cookies. The pastor asked Mrs. Fred Schadel and Miss Martha Marci to act as a committee to contact members of the congregation to furnish the refreshments or money for them.

In May 1946 the church paid the balance due on the mortgage of the parsonage. In Feb. of the same year a Missionary and Altar Guild was organized. During the past few years there has grown a greater realization by the members of St. Paul's regarding its relation to the Lutheran Church as a part of a national and International organization. This has been shown both by its contribution toward apportioned benevolence and its response to the calls of The United Lutheran Church in its special drives for funds for the work of the Church at large. For the past few years the women of the church have been filling jars with fruits or vegetables for some Lutheran Home.

When Pastor Steigerwalt agreed to act as a supply pastor, he accepted a difficult position as the leader of a bewildered congregation lost in a wilderness of debts. There confronted him a debt of about \$4800. This debt included the parsonage mortgage and back interest, notes, loans, balance due on the organ, and some back salaries. All these are now paid off. St. Paul's is a living testimony of the words of Christ—"as you give, so shall you receive." With fewer members to give and work, the Lord has blessed them with greater vigor to meet their local expenses as they have increased their effort to help others through The United Lutheran Church.

The memory of the dark days in our struggle for existence is dimmed by thoughts of the many blessings the Lord has bestowed upon us. Without His help and guidance we could have accomplished nought, nor could we grown or prospered. Our prayers are that He will "help us and keep us" as we work ever forward through the coming years. To the Lord and Giver of Life we render most humble thanks. "It is meet and right so to do."



CHURCH INTERIOR—1946.

The Sunday School

Although the Sunday School was organized by Pastor Ehinger and the first members of St. Paul's, there are very few records to be found concerning the Sunday School. There was one man who worked diligently for the success of the Sunday School. That man was Mr. Frank Marci Sr. He probably served for more than 30 years as Sunday School Superintendent.

Up to Feb. 1907, German was the only language used by the teachers. Then English was added. Gradually the German Sunday School classes were replaced by English ones. The first attempt at establishing a cradle roll occurred at a congregational meeting in 1908. After the church was raised, the Sunday School services were held in the basement. For years the Sunday School presented a Xmas cantata under the direction of John Byers. He was assisted by Mr. and Mrs. Leland Brunner.

Besides the present Supt. Carl Brunner, the following have served as Sunday School Superintendents: Leland Brunner, Dr. Walter Schneider, Arthur Nelson Sr., Mrs. Claire Bellamy.

THE CHOIR

Again a complete story cannot be told. Sometimes the pastor directed the choir and other times the organist did the directing. The first organist mentioned in the church records is Miss Mathilde Gerhardt. She resigned in 1905. Arthur Brunner succeeded her. He continued until the Fall of 1910. This occurred during Rev. R. L. Pfeil's pastorate. Rev. Pfeil in answer to our questions, wrote that Hattie Griebel, Rena Highhouse, and Florence Brucher were organists during his pastorate.

While Rev. R. E. Lucas was pastor, his wife directed the choir and some times played the organ. The other organist during his pastorate were Rena Highhouse and Florence Brucher.

Rev. B. Walther Pfeil wrote "We organized a new choir." There are no records of the length of time the church was without a choir.

Probably the one who has served the longest as organist and choir director was John M. Byers. He left Carbondale in 1937. There has been no Senior Choir since then.

In 1943 Rev. E. O. Steigerwalt endeavored to organize a Junior Choir. Choir robes were made for the boys and girls. For a while the response was very good. For several reasons the Junior Choir has not functioned this year.

THE LADIES AID

The Ladies Aid was organized Nov. 21, 1900 with the following members: Mesdames Louis Brunner, Wm. Schroeder, Adolph Proetzsch, Chas. Schuster, Fred Schadel, Frank Roemmelmeyer, L. Brauer, August Gerhardt. The first officers were: Mrs. Wm. Schroeder, President; Mrs. August Gerhardt, Secretary; Mrs. Louis Brunner, Treasurer.

Unfortunately some of the books containing the minutes of The Ladies Aid meetings are missing. There are times when it is difficult to describe the importance of an organization. The Ladies Aid is an example of such an organization. Always ready to work hard for their church through the means of suppers, bazaars, socials, The Ladies Aid have answered the church's call for funds to meet unusual expenses. Some times they took over the entire financial obligation, such as the cost of building the Sacristy. In 1928 the organization adopted a new constitution.

The records available show that the following have been president of the Aid: Mesdames C. Roelsing, A. Blankenberg, Mary Brunner, Ida Kagler, Helen Kroft, Helen Wagner, Ann Schneider, Anna Koch, Frieda Jacobs, Inez Collins, Margaret Brunner, Wm. Schroeder.

The success of an organization depends not only on its leaders but upon the cooperation of its members. The Ladies Aid cherishes the memories of such workers as Mrs. Kate Schuster, Mrs. Pauline Schuster, Mrs. Mary Schadel, Mrs. Antonia Schroeder, Mrs. Hattie Lieberum Koenig. They were always willing to do more than their share of the work.

THE MISSIONARY AND ALTAR GUILD SOCIETY

In Feb. 1946, the Missionary and Altar Guild was organized. An attempt was made a few years before

to organize. In the interim this small group of women functioned unofficially as an Altar Guild. The Guild has been able to have part of the closet in the Sacristy remodeled so that there will be a proper storage space for the Altar linens. This society devotes the major part of its monthly meetings to the study of the topic outlined by Women's Missionary Society.

The following are the first officers of the organization: Mrs. Margaret Brunner, President; Mrs. Eleanor Pittaway, Secretary; Mrs. Frieda Jacobs, Statistical Secretary; Mrs. Esther Brucher, Treasurer.

THE LUTHER LEAGUE.

The Luther League was organized Nov. 21, 1897 at a meeting held in the church. Sixteen persons attended. The following officers were elected: Pastor, Ehinger, President ex officio; Fred Schadel, Vice President; Anna Warg, Secretary; Geo. Schroeder, Treasurer. On Nov. 28th they met at the home of Wm. Schroeder and adopted a constitution. The Misses Anna Byers, Elizabeth Scheer, Helen Nagel, Anna Proetzch, the Messers Paul Ihlefeltdt, Adolph Brunning, Fred Brunning, Arthur Schalm, Albin Engel, Chas. Baumn, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brunner, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Schroeder, were among the first members. The meetings were conducted in the German language until 1907 when it was decided to change to the English. The books containing the records of the years from 1909 to 1926 are missing.

In 1926 the League purchased folding card tables to be used in the church basement during social affairs. The League purchased the green and white stoles, the material for the red and white Altar Paraments, and material for the pastor's Surplice. The League paid for the construction of the receptacle in which the church envelopes are deposited. In 1930 the League paid for the building of a retable.

As a memorial to the departed Luther Leaguers, the League purchased an Altar edition of the Service book for the church. Back in the late twenties the League established the custom of purchasing the palms and using them to decorate the church on Palm Sunday. After church service that day the palms were distributed among the congregation. At one time the League also bought the candles for the Altar. In 1946 the League voted to sponsor a parish abroad at the cost of \$50 a year.

For years after the League was organized, the

pastor was the presiding officer. Since 1926 the following have been president of the Luther League: Fred Schadel Jr., Ted Engle, Herman Brooks, Kerlin Morgan, Ernest Brucher, Mrs. Margaret Brunner, Mrs. Hazel Bellamy, Mrs. Leona Mosher, Mrs. Eleanor Pittaway.

THE MEN'S CLUB

At the Council meeting April 1922, a motion was made that a Men's Club be organized. This organization functioned until about 1936 or 1937. During this period Leland Brunner acted as Chairman and John Byers as Secretary and pianist. A social session was held each month. Speakers were obtained for these meetings. A Glee Club was organized among the members. Community singing was always part of the program. There was always an excellent lunch served after the meeting.

September 1938 it was reorganized and called The Brotherhood. In 1943 new By-Laws were adopted. Back in 1940 the men of the organization agreed not only to paint the church but raise the money necessary for the material. Many friendly social sessions have taken place between St. Paul's and St. Luke's Archbald organizations.

Early in the history of its activities there was conducted a "Pig Roast." This has become so popular that there is a big demand for the tickets through out the community by the men. Last January the 19th Annual "Pig Roast" was held. Although there was a year or two when there were no meetings held, the men held this annual affair. The cooking was done by the Ladies Aid. The women of the Luther League assisted in the serving.

The men took over two objectives: raising enough funds to pay for the cost of coal and the fire insurance on the parsonage and the church.

When it was reorganized in Sept., Leland Brunner was elected president for the remaining months and for 1939. Since then the following have served: Wilbert Schwarztrauber (1940), Claire Bellamy (1941), Ernest Brucher (1942), Adam Chrastina (1943), Herman Brooks (1944), Walter Brunner (1945), Herman Brooks (1946).

Honor Roll of World War II

Robert Ashby	*Donald Moore
Russell Ashby	William Moore
C. Vernon Bellamy	Arthur Nelson
Ernest Deutsch	Charles Nelson
Carl Gallinot	Albert Pittaway
Gus Gallinot	Arthur Ross
John Gallinot	William Schroeder
Ernest Griebel Jr.	Harold Schwarztrauber
Alfred Jacobs	Ronald Thompson
Robert Koch	Charlotte Pittaway
	Robert C. Koch

*War Casualty

Memorial services for Donald Moore were held
October 24, 1945.

Rambling Thru The Records

FROM the time St. Paul's was organized, two men served their church as councilmen until their death: Wm. Schroeder, charter member councilman until 1920 (24 years); Louis Brunner, charter member and councilman until 1928 (32 years.)

The Church Council invited The Ladies Aid "zum gemuhtlich Zeit in Germania Society Hall."

Two social events eagerly awaited by the people of Carbondale were the annual Sauerkraut Supper of The Ladies Aid and the Strawberry Social and Dance held in Watt's Hall by The Luther League.

According to the records, back in July 1905, Arthur Brunner was elected as organist for the remainder of the year. Salary for the 6 months was \$10.

In 1931 Mrs. Peter Lippert gave \$5 toward establishing a Memorial Fund.

In the early years of the church, the pastor always officiated as the president of the church council. Sometime in 1918 or 1919 Louis Brunner Sr. became the first layman president. He served until 1923. Those who followed are: Gus Schroeder (Feb. 1923-Jan. 1924); C. A. Koch (Jan. 1924-Jan. 1931); Elmer Highhouse (Jan. 1931-June 1931). Pastor Yeich, presided until a president was elected (Aug. 1931-Jan. 1932); Frank Marci Sr. (Jan. 1932-Jan. 1937); J. M. Byers (Jan. 1937-March 1937); C. A. Koch (March 1937.)

An outstanding social event in 1930 was a congregational dinner with Dr. Hoover of Carthage College as the speaker.

Mrs. Helma L. Moore was the first and only one since St. Paul's has been established, to leave the church a bequest in a will.

The church parsonage on Belmont Street was sold for \$4000.

In 1920 the council voted to give \$50 a year to Synod. It was to be paid in 2 installments.

St. Paul's has raised its quota to date in all the Lutheran World Action campaigns.

In the early years of the church, the church was heated by two stoves; one on the north side and the other on the south. It was a case of almost roasting when one sat close to the stove and freezing if one sat too far away.

Xmas scenes in the Church years ago: There was a large Xmas tree with brightly burning candles. Seated with the Sunday School children was a member of the church council. He held a very long pole. At the end of it, securely fastened was a wet cloth. Suddenly while a child was reciting, the man would walk around the tree extinguishing the candles that might ignite the tree.

In 1944 the annual World Day of Prayer sponsored by the Protestant women was conducted in Carbondale in St. Paul's with the ladies of the other Protestant churches participating.

In 1944 the first Girl Scout troop commenced holding its meetings in the church basement. Its leader, Mrs. Bernard Plessner (nee Dorothy Brunner), is a member of the congregation.

During World War II the council adopting Pastor Steigerwalt's suggestion, sent New Testaments to its boys in the service.

The following men died while they were serving their church as councilmen:

Frank Marci, Died 1937—Served about 32 years.

Harry Kagler, Died 1937—Served about 9 years.

Adam Gallinot, Died 1940—Served about 32 years.

F. G. Koch, Died 1946—Served about 20 years.

Of the present council members, Ernest Brucher has served over 10 years; Herman Brooks, over 15 years; C. A. Koch, over 20 years; Leland Brunner, over 25 years.

Among the early members still living in Carbondale are Frank Roemmelmeyer, Adolph Brunner and Geo. Schroeder, all former members of the church

council. Others who still reside here are Mrs. Adolph Brunner, Mrs. Jos. Krantz and Mr. and Mrs. E. Griebel.

Mrs. Philipin Ludwig was secretary of the Ladies Aid for 25 years, and Mrs. Louise Highhouse served as treasurer for the organization for 25 years.

In the Luther League records we read: "Resolved that henceforth the meetings be conducted in the English but German may be used by any member if so desired and the president shall be bound to translate any resolution if any member should ask for it."

For years the church paid only between ten and twenty per cent of its benevolence apportionment. In 1943, it attained 38.3% of it. In 1944 it had risen to 60% and in 1945, to 87%.

The Ladies Aid have been placing Easter Lillies in the church every Easter. The year this custom was established is not now known. The Ladies Aid later sent the flowers to the sick members of the congregation.

In the past the Luther League has successfully presented a number of plays. Its Hallowe'en Party has become an annual affair.

October 6, 1906, Rev. R. L. Pfeil married Miss Helen Naegle, a member of his own congregation. The wedding took place in Wilkes-Barre with a personal friend, the Rev. E. H. Behrens, officiating. The members of both churches were invited to the church wedding, and to the festivities in parish hall and house after the ceremony.

When Pastor B. Walther Pfeil consented to help out at Carbondale, he was serving a pastorate consisting of 5 churches. Services were conducted the first and third Sundays of each month in German at 10:00 A. M., in English at 11:00 A. M. Sunday School was conducted every Sunday at 12:00 noon.

The cost of installing the kneeling benches was assumed by individual members of the congregation.

During World War II some of the women of the church did Red Cross sewing. The Red Cross placed 2 electric sewing machines in the church basement. The very small group made almost a 100 garments.

St. Paul participated in both the Lutheran Salvage Drive and the one conducted by the United Protestant Churches.

Gifts to the Church

Crucifix—by Father Coffey

1907—Baptismal Font, by Mr. and Mrs. E. Griebel, in memory of daughter.

1912—Altar Window, by Mrs. Von Beck and family, in memory of husband and father.

Window, by Louis Brunner Sr.

Window, by Adam Gallinot.

1913—Lectern, by Adolph Brunner.

1924—Window, by Mrs. Wm. Schroeder and family, in memory of husband and father.

Window, by Arthur, Leland and Louis Brunner, in memory of mother.

Window, by Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zimmerman.

Window, by Mr. and Mrs. Louis Brunner.

Window, by Mr. and Mrs. August Blankenberg.

Window, by Mr. and Mrs. Chris Highhouse.

Window, by The Ladies Aid.

Window, by The Luther League.

Hymn Boards, by Adolph Brunner.

1935—Cancelled note of \$360, by Arthur Brunner.

Cancelled note of \$360, by Leland Brunner.

1937—Bible (Pulpit), by Luther League, in memory of Frank Marci Sr.

1940—Rose Window, by Herman Brooks, in memory of his mother.

Altar Vases, by Mrs. Leland Brunner, in memory of her parents.

U. S. Flag, by Vassar Jones.

1941—Light (Narthex), by Mrs. C. Highhouse, in memory of her husband.

Light (Nave), by Mrs. James Lynett, in memory of her father.

Light (Nave), by Mrs. F. Marci and family, in memory of husband and father.

Light (Nave), by Mrs. Ida Kagler, in memory of her husband.

Light (Nave), by Geo. Schroeder.

1942—Curtains, by Sunday School.

- 1945—Christian Flag, by Luther League.
Candle Lighter and \$25.00, by Mrs. G. Gallinot and family, in memory of husband and father.
Black Scarf (to be used on Good Friday), by Miss Florence Llewellyn.
- 1946—Communion Veil, by Mrs. Leland Brunner and Mrs. Edw. Jacobs.
- 1946—Superfrontals (2), by Mrs. A. Solt and daughter, Mrs. M. Pettinato, in memory of husband and father.
Fair Linen and 9 Purificators, by Mrs. Bernard Plessner.
Altar Reading Desk, in memory of Donald Moore, by congregation and friends.
Bible (Lectern), by congregation, in memory of departed councilmen.
Bulletin Board, by Mrs. Geo. Miller, Mrs. Herman Brooks and Mrs. Ernest Brucher, in memory of their parents.
\$100.00, bequest of Mrs. James Moore.

No Date—

- Choir Loft Hangings, by Mrs. H. Kagler.
Veil, Napkins, Superfrontal, by Mrs. H. Kagler.
Cross, by Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Yeich and Children, in memory of son and brother.
Piano and Music Cabinet, by Mr. and Mrs. V. E. Kroft.
Hangings (Organ), by the choir.
Altar Service Book, by Luther League, in memory of departed members.
Altar Boys' Gown, by Mrs. Frank Koch.
Candle Sticks and \$16.00, by Mr. and Mrs. Peter Lippert, in memory of daughter.
\$5.00, by Mrs. Anton Hoffman, in memory of her husband.
\$100.00, by sons and daughters of Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Koch, in memory of their parents.
- Altar Paraments—
Green, made and donated by Mrs. C. A. Koch and Mrs. Leland Brunner.
Violet, material purchased by Sunday School and made by Altar Guild.
White and Red, by the Luther League.
64 Church Hymnals, by members of congregation and organizations of the church.

Program

The Service—Sunday, November 10 at 11 A. M.
Golden Anniversary Celebration—Sunday, November 10 at 7:30 P. M.

Speaker, The Rev. E. E. Fischer, D. D., President of Ministerium of Pennsylvania.

Anniversary Dinner—November 11 at Durfee Hall.

Community Night—November 12 at 7:30 P. M.



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Rev. E. O. Steigerwalt, Chairman

Keith Mosher Leland Brunner

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Mrs. Glen Wagner Mrs. Keith Mosher

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Mrs. George Miller, Chairman

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Mrs. Arthur Ross Miss Marjorie Brunner

Anniversary Dinner Committee.

Mrs. Edward Jacobs, Chairman

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Mrs. Claire Bellamy Miss Martha Marci

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C. A. Koch Wilbert Schwarztrauber
Mrs. Fred Schadel Mrs. George Yeager



THANKS.

To all the members of the committees, I wish to express my appreciation for their efforts to make this, St. Paul's Golden Anniversary Celebration, possible.

Leland Brunner, General Chairman.

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(As of October 28th, 1946)

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